

DIA and NSA
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
12 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 26
(as of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. Fighting has broken out on both fronts this morning after another night of little activity. Initial Israeli communiques state that they intend to maintain the initiative that they seized during yesterday's attacks on the Golan Heights. The Iraqi Embassy in Damascus reported yesterday that the situation in the Golan Heights was tense and that the Syrians had been forced to withdraw and reorganize.

2. In the Sinai, several artillery exchanges have been reported since dawn. There are no indications yet, however, that either the Egyptians or the Israelis intend on launching a major offensive today. Israeli tank troops told visiting newsmen that their present aim in the south was to contain the huge Egyptian force concentrated there until the offensive has been pushed through against Syria. Israel would then be ready to turn its attention to advancing the Suez front.

SYRIAN FRONT

3. After a relatively quiet evening, Israeli forces resumed operations this morning by launching air strikes against Syrian ground positions east of

the Golan Heights. An air battle involving several aircraft from both sides was reported in progress north of Qunaytirah. Both Syrian and Israeli military spokesmen acknowledged this morning that ground fighting had been renewed in the Golan Heights. It is too early to determine whether the Israelis intend to push on toward Qatana, a military center some 12 miles south of Damascus, or to strike the remaining Syrian forces in the Golan Heights.

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THE EGYPTIAN FRONT

5. Little fighting was reported along the southern front last night, although Israeli aircraft were flying in the area. The Israelis resumed air attacks around Port Said this morning.

6. Artillery exchanges developed at dawn along the Suez Canal, with artillery fire sightings reported from Fayid near the Great Bitter Lake north to Port Said. The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram said today that tank battles continued into the early morning hours on the Sinai desert;

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7. Israeli tank troops told visiting newsmen this morning that their aim in the south was to contain the huge Egyptian force concentrated there until the offensive has been pushed through in the north against Syria. The Israelis said that they expect a major offensive against Egypt in the next few days.

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8. Israeli military spokesmen claim that two Egyptian missile vessels were sunk last night in a naval engagement near Port Said.

9. In a briefing late last night with the US Defense Attache, Israeli Chief of Military Intelligence Zeira said that 4 Egyptian TU-16s fired 8 Kelt air-to-surface missiles at targets in the Sinai yesterday from standoff positions over Egypt.

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General Zeira said that no damage was done by the missiles and two of the Kelts were shot down by AAA guns.

10. The Cairo press charges that the Israelis are killing innocent civilians in the fighting. Al Ahram today reports that President Sadat has directed Foreign Minister al-Zayyat to present photographic proof to the UN that Israeli air strikes on non-military targets in Egypt have killed over 100 civilians. Al Ahram adds that Egypt is not lodging a complaint, but is merely bringing the matter to the UN's attention because it intends to retaliate.

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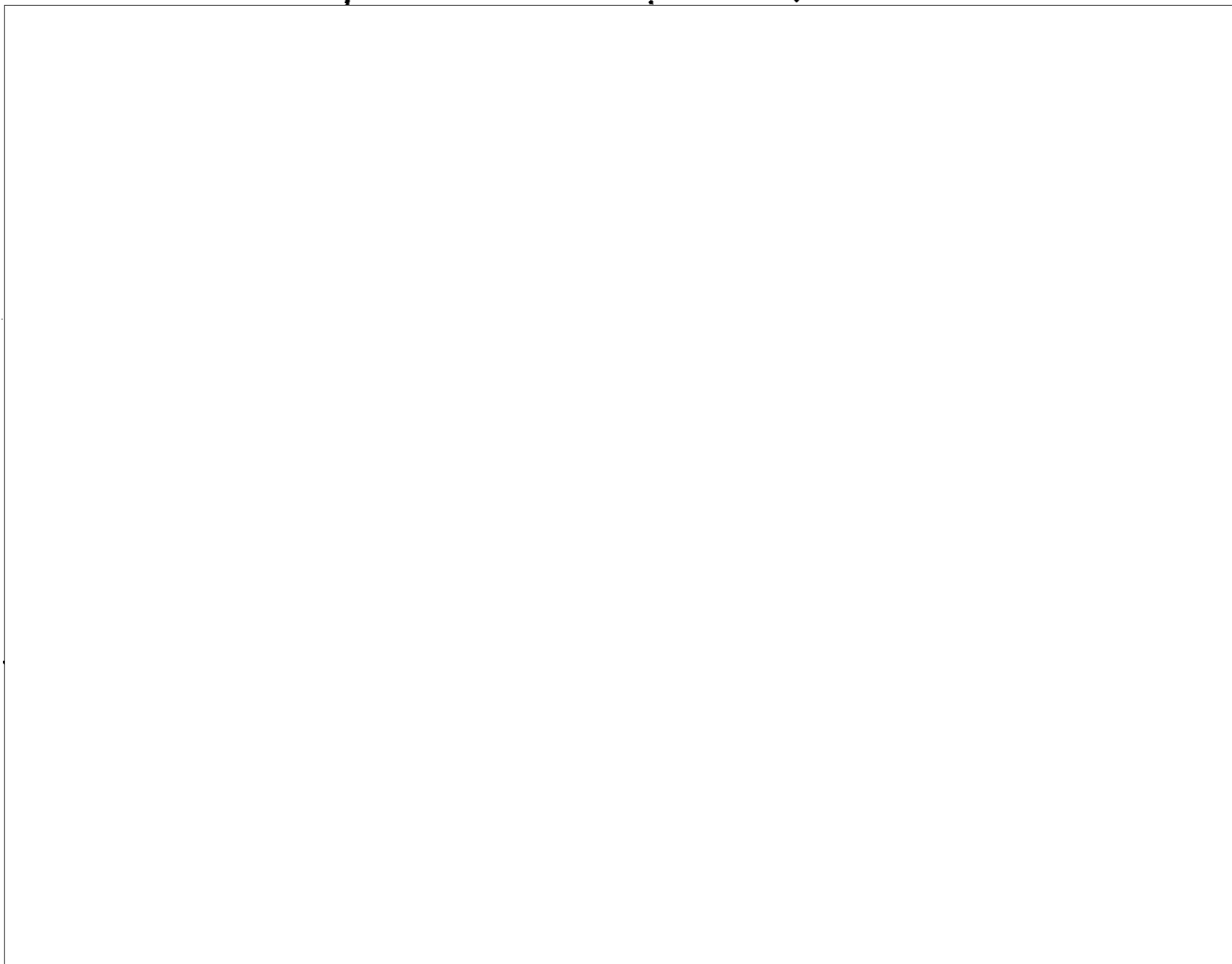
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ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

14. Although most of the nearly 1.5 million Arabs under Israeli administration verbally support the Syrian and Egyptians, apparently none have engaged in sabotage, nor have the Israelis imposed any restrictions on the movements of these Arabs. With the outcome of the fighting still uncertain, the Arabs are taking a wait and see attitude and are ignoring calls by the fedayeen to rise up in an insurrection.

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UN

18. UN Secretary General Waldheim yesterday called for members of the Security Council to move as swiftly as possible to bring an end to the fighting. Waldheim said the present war contains the gravest consequences, not only for the Middle East, but the world as a whole. The Secretary General called upon all the governments involved to urgently seek any political route that would bring a just and lasting settlement.

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